

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a first input device capable of inputting character information;

5 a second input device capable of inputting coordinates representing character information;

an input character recognizing unit which recognizes the character information input by the first 10 input device; and

a handwritten character recognizing unit which recognizes the character information represented by the coordinates input by the second input device.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a first display device which displays the character information input by the first input device;

a second display device which displays a trajectory of the coordinates input by the second input 20 device; and

a controller which displays the character information which is recognized by the handwritten character recognizing unit on one of the first display device and the second display device.

25 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the handwritten character recognizing unit obtains candidate characters based on the trajectory of the

coordinates input by the second input device; and  
the controller displays the candidate characters  
obtained by the handwritten character recognizing unit  
on the second display device.

5       4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
the controller displays a character selection window  
in which the candidate characters are arranged in  
character units in a selectable manner on the second  
display device.

10      5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
the handwritten character recognizing unit  
which recognizes character information based on the  
coordinates input by the second input device for  
a character which can not be input by the first input  
15     device.

6. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
the handwritten character recognizing unit  
which recognizes character information based on  
the coordinates input by the second input device for  
20     a character above a certain level which requires  
a candidate selection operation.

7. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
the handwritten character recognizing unit  
which recognizes character information based on the  
coordinates input by the second input device for  
25     a predetermined character or character type.

8. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

when one of the candidate characters is selected from the character selection window displayed on the second display device in a state where an input prompt of an input document is displayed on the first display device, the controller displays, as a determined character, the selected candidate character in a character input position which is indicated by the input prompt of the input document displayed on the first display device.

9. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the second input device and the second display device are formed by a pointing device having a touch screen which is integrally provided with a tablet and a display panel.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controller switches between a pointing operation mode and a handwritten character recognition mode in accordance with a touch operation signal of the pointing device.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controller selects one of the candidate characters and determines the character to be input, in accordance with the touch operation signal of the pointing device.

12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the pointing device comprises an operation button; and

the controller switches between the pointing

operation mode and the handwritten character recognition mode in accordance with an operation signal of the operation button.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
5 the controller selects one of the candidate characters and determines the character to be input, in accordance with the operation signal of the operation button.

14. A method of inputting a character for a system comprising a main display device which displays a main  
10 operation screen, a sub display device capable of touch operation, and a keyboard which inputs a character by use of the main display device, the method comprising:

providing a handwritten character recognizing unit in the sub display device;

15 displaying document information input by an operation of the keyboard on the main display device; and

20 displaying on the sub display device candidate characters recognized by the handwritten character recognizing unit in accordance with an input operation trajectory by the sub display device.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

25 displaying each of the candidate characters recognized by the handwritten character recognizing unit on the sub display device in a selectable manner by a touch operation.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

determining the candidate character selected by the touch operation as the input character; and

5 inputting the determined character in a character input position of a document which is input by a keyboard operation and displayed on the main display device.

10 17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing operation buttons in the sub display device; and

switching between a pointing operation mode and a handwritten character recognition mode by operating 15 the operation button.

18. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

displaying character input buttons selectable by the touch operation on the sub display device, which 20 are intended for predetermined certain characters or character types.